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May 24, 2011

Senator James H. Webb
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for language in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act that would allow the Secretary of Defense to delay the implementation of several BRAC recommendations.

In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended the transfer of approximately 20,000 military personnel to the Fort Belvoir Main Post; Fort Belvoir North Area (FBNA), formerly the Engineer Proving Grounds (EPG); and the Mark Center in Alexandria. By law, these BRAC realignments must be completed by September 15, 2011. Once BRAC is fully implemented, Fort Belvoir will house more employees than the Pentagon, many of which, are being transferred from locations well-served by developed highway and transit networks. Fort Belvoir, by comparison, has much less transportation and transit options available to its employees. The associated traffic impacts are anticipated to be swift and significant in several local transportation corridors. Our region already has some of the worst congestion in the nation.

The total estimated costs of Fairfax County transportation projects necessitated by the BRAC recommendations for Ft. Belvoir vary from \$626 million for the U.S. Army identified improvements to \$1.9 billion for improvements identified by Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia have provided substantial funding for BRAC related transportation improvements. The Federal government has also provided funding for completion of the portion of the Fairfax County Parkway within FBNA, for defense access road ramps from I-95 to access FBNA, and for construction of Mulligan Road at the Main Post. Most recently, the Federal government included \$300 million in the FY 2011 budget for transportation infrastructure improvements associated with BRAC recommendations related to medical facilities, for which the County is preparing an application. The County appreciates the additional resources the Federal government has provided, but believes that, as BRAC is a federal action, more responsibility for ensuring appropriate mitigation must rest with the Federal government. Additionally, while new projects are needed to provide relief to commuters, they will take significant time to construct. In an unrelated decision, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) chose to expand the

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environmental review of the proposed I-395 HOV/Transit Ramp at Seminary Road near the Mark Center from a Categorical Exclusion to an Environmental Assessment. The project is already expected to take several years and FHWA's decision will further delay its completion until long after 6,400 employees are relocated to the Mark Center. Fairfax County has urged FHWA to reconsider this decision.

Last week, H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act, was reported by the House Armed Services Committee by a vote of 60-1. Section 2704 of the bill grants the Secretary of Defense the authority to extend the deadline, by one year, for completion of not more than seven of the closure or realignment recommendations. Due to the lack of transportation infrastructure currently in place, as well as the time needed for these recent actions to be addressed, we believe that it is in the best interests of our constituents to delay to the implementation of the BRAC recommendations for the Mark Center. We respectfully request that you work to include this language in the final National Defense Authorization Act. We appreciate your efforts on the County's behalf in this and other critically important issues involving the Northern Virginia transportation network.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact me or Noelle Dominguez with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation at (703) 877-5665. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sharon Bulova

Chairman

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive
Catherine Chianese, Assistant County Executive
Susan E. Mittereder, Legislative Director
Tom Biesiadny, Acting Director, Department of Transportation
Gregory A. Whirley Sr., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation
Garrett W. Moore, Northern Virginia District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation

Similar letters were also addressed and sent individually to:

The Honorable Mark R. Warner, United States Senate
The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable James P. Moran, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, United States House of Representatives

